



# California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 - [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov)

## Local Government Newsletter No. 03 June 2004

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**This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions undertaken and issues pending before the CPUC that may affect your community.**

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If you have questions about anything in this newsletter, please e-mail Kyle DeVine at [kyl@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:kyl@cpuc.ca.gov). If you wish to participate in a CPUC proceeding, have questions about a proceeding, want to automatically receive CPUC-issued documents, or want to comment at a Commission meeting, our Public Advisor's Office is here to help. Contact us at:

San Francisco Office: 866-849-8390, or [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)

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### **Statewide Interest**

**New!** – The CPUC issued a Telecommunications Bill of Rights on May 27 which applies to all telecommunications companies that provide local service, local toll, in-state long distance and wireless services. It declares that all consumers who interact with telecommunications providers must be afforded certain basic rights: Disclosure, Choice, Privacy, Public Participation and Enforcement, Accurate Bills and Redress, Non-Discrimination and Safety. The General Order states the rights and the rules that the utilities must follow when dealing with residential, and business customers that have 20 or fewer phone lines and no more than one T1 line. It is available on the CPUC website at: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/37168.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/37168.htm). The rules include changes which will significantly improve telecommunications customer service, such as: a consumer has 30 days to try out any service and if unsatisfied with the service, the customer may cancel within that 30-day period and not be billed any early termination fees or other penalties. The Commission is developing a summary of the rights and rules for consumers and will e-mail copies of it to the local government newsletter mailing list once it's available. If you would like someone to discuss the Bill of Rights at your community meetings, please e-mail Kyle DeVine at: [kyl@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:kyl@cpuc.ca.gov) and we will ask the CPUC Outreach Officers to contact you.

**Local governments may want to participate in the CPUC discussion on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).** VoIP provides telephone service over the Internet and promises to offer great benefits at low costs. At the same time, VoIP presents major public policy issues that require further examination. The Commission is considering if VoIP should be required to provide services that other telecommunications services provide, such as, providing ubiquitous E911 service, allowing local police to monitor telephone use to combat criminal activity, and requiring users to pay the surcharges that fund various programs, such as high speed data lines discounts for libraries and schools, and low-income programs. As of June 28, no hearings have been scheduled. Once they are, this section will be updated ([proceeding I.04-02-007](#)). More information: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/proceedings/I0402007.htm>

**Local Governments may be interested in purchasing and selling electricity for customers in their jurisdiction.** The CPUC is developing rules to implement "Community Choice Aggregation," which will permit cities and counties to purchase and sell electricity on behalf of utility customers in their jurisdictions. **Update!** The Commission held two weeks of hearings on utility costs that would be assumed by Community

**Choice Aggregation.** The Commission plans to address operational and implementation issues before the end of the year. (proceeding R.03-10-003). More information: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/proceedings/R0310003.htm>

**Local governments may want to express views on Distributed Generation.** The Commission has initiated a new proceeding on Distributed Generation (generators that can be installed at a company's worksite or a residence to provide electricity for that company or home). New technologies continue to evolve and their potential benefits present options to be considered in electric utility resource planning and procurement. **Update!** The Commission held a prehearing conference on June 28 and plans to address issues relating to the Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), which provides incentives to those who generate their own power using distributed generation technologies (proceeding R.04-03-017). More Information: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL\\_DECISION/34972.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/34972.htm)

**Rail – local government interest in highway-rail crossings and rail service.** **Update!** A decision was issued in June that ranked the highway-rail crossing improvement projects in light of their safety improvements. The list is considered when granting state funds. Next year the list will be revised by removing the projects which received funds (proceeding I.03-07-009). Decision (and list): [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/word\\_pdf/FINAL\\_DECISION/37398.doc](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/word_pdf/FINAL_DECISION/37398.doc). More information: Contact Rosa Munoz 213-576-7078.

**Expanding phone service in rural communities (AB 140 implementation project).** A new state program that benefits local communities was created to expand telecommunications service and infrastructure to rural areas in California where there currently is no service. **Update!** On June 9, the CPUC approved funding to assist in providing telecommunications services to these areas that are currently without telephone service: the Yurok Tribe in Humboldt County in the amount of \$2,500,000; the community of Iowa Hill in Placer County in the amount of \$1,834,900; and Trinity County in the amount of \$2,500,000. **Reminder!** Applications for next fiscal year (July 2004 through June 2005) will be accepted from July 1, 2004, to August 31, 2004. Contact Mary Jo Borak at 415-703-1879 or via email at: [bor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:bor@cpuc.ca.gov). More information: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/industry/telco/public+programs/rural/index.htm>

## **Southern California Interest**

**Reminder!** Inland Empire, the 909-951 area code split will begin July 17. The present area which uses the 909 area code will be split generally along the Riverside/San Bernardino county line, and the new 951 area code will be used in western Riverside County. From July 17 through October 29, 2004, you may use the new area code or not and the call will go through. Beginning October 30, 2004, the 951 area code must be used on calls placed from phones outside the new area code (proceeding R.95-04-043). More information, including a map and **another revised list** of prefixes that will change: [ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/areacodes/909\\_951\\_AreaCodeSplitHandout.pdf](ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/areacodes/909_951_AreaCodeSplitHandout.pdf)

**Viejo electric system project in Orange County.** Edison has proposed to construct a 220 kilovolt substation in Lake Forest, Orange County, and a three mile, 66 kilovolt line between the substation and another in Mission Viejo. The Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration report is posted on the website – here's the link. **Update!** A proposed decision was issued and it is currently scheduled to be considered at the Commission's July 8 meeting; however, the commissioners may decide to hold it over to another meeting or may approve an alternate. (proceeding A.03-03-043).

**San Diego County electric transmission and substation projects may interest local governments.** The CPUC is currently reviewing many projects designed to respond to demand for electrical service. The draft environmental impact report for San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E) **Miguel-Mission project** is published

and is posted on the CPUC website – here's the link to the draft. **Update!** A proposed decision by the presiding ALJ and an alternate decision by Commissioner Kennedy on the Mission-Miguel project have been issued and both are scheduled to be considered at the Commission's July 8 meeting; however the commissioners may decide to hold the issue over to another meeting. (proceeding A.02-07-022). The Otay Mesa Interconnection project would connect the new power plants at Otay Mesa to the local transmission system (proceeding A.04-03-008). SDG&E seeks a permit to construct the **Mira Sorrento Substation** on Sorrento Mesa (proceeding A.03-12-016). In March, SDG&E filed for a permit to construct the **Uptown Substation** in Grant Hill near Star Route 94 (proceeding A.04-03-015).

**New!** Los Angeles Westside local governments may be interested in Southern California Gas Company's plans to sell property in Playa del Rey and Marina del Rey and environmental impacts of the foreseeable future development of the land which would include residential homes and commercial use. A Public Participation Hearing was held June 28 to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Copies of it are available from the website; here's the link: <http://www.playadivest.com/>

**Southland local governments** may be concerned whether an environmental review is necessary, and whether Southern California Gas filed, or plans to file, any city, county or state permits, licenses, or authorizations to allow it to drill additional wells. These issues will be discussed as part of the utility's request for an incentive to drill gas wells on land it owns, leases, or owns or leases mineral rights to in efforts to locate and produce new gas supplies. **Update!** A memo outlining the issues and proceeding schedule was issued in May and evidentiary hearings will begin Tuesday, August 24 (proceeding A.04-01-034). Scoping memo: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/word\\_pdf/RULINGS/36884.doc](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/word_pdf/RULINGS/36884.doc)

## **Northern California Interest**

**Transmission projects in San Mateo County.** The CPUC is currently reviewing many projects designed to respond to growth in electrical service. Many cities along the route are participating in the proceeding for the Jefferson-Martin transmission project in which PG&E proposes to install a new, 27-mile, 230 kV transmission line with overhead and underground segments. **Update!** A proposed decision was issued by the judge. Commissioner Lynch, who is assigned to the proceeding, has issued a ruling asking for more information, and an alternate decision has been issued by President Peevey. (proceeding A.02-09-043). More information: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/proceedings/A0209043.htm>

**New!** Monterey public authority, golf courses and other customers that use a lot of water in California American Water Company's (Cal-Am) Monterey district may see large increases in the higher use blocks of their water rates this summer. Cal-Am has asked for authority to increase rates until November, 2004 to encourage conservation this summer to address an emergency supply issue and avoid imposition of fines from the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed increase would affect residential customers when they use high amounts of water; for example residential customers that use more than 300 cubic feet of water will see increases in the rates they pay for the higher use. Golf course customers and other commercial customers will also see increases. The Commission will hold Public Participation Hearings on July 2, at 2 and 6 p.m. at the Portola Plaza Hotel (formerly the Doubletree Hotel), 2 Portola Plaza, Monterey to hear comments from the public about the request (proceeding A.04-06-020).

## **Upcoming Commission business meetings –July 8, August 19, September 2**

Most items discussed at the meetings are distributed publicly 30 days in advance of the respective meeting. Read, print and download decisions that are issued through our "Official Documents" page, selecting "Currently Open for Comment." Here's the link to the official documents page: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/official+docs/index.htm>. The Agenda for a business meeting is posted on the

website 10 days before a meeting and at the meeting you may comment on most items on the agenda. Contact the Public Advisor for specifics. Here's a link to the website. <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>.

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### **Community Calendar –**

Here is a list of workshops and proceedings for this month, which your community may want to follow or participate in. Since items could be added or removed daily, you may want to access our **daily calendar** for complete information. Also you can get on the Information Only list for any of our proceedings and be notified of meetings, ruling and decisions on the proceedings you select. Also if you have any questions, contact our **Public Advisor's Office**.

July 2 – 2 pm & 6 pm  
Public Participation  
Hearings

The public is invited to comment on California-American Water Company's request to temporarily increase the high use rates for its Monterey District customers. Hearings will be at the Portola Plaza Hotel (formerly the Doubletree Hotel), 2 Portola Plaza, Monterey.

July 6 – 10 am - 4 pm  
Public Meeting

The public is invited to attend the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) Administrative Committee meeting and time has been set aside at 1 p.m. for public comment. The meeting will be at the **DDTP Office, 505 14th Street, Suite 500, Oakland**. For more information, contact Jane Elin at 510-302-1100x110 or TTY may call 510-302-1118.

July 7 – 1:30 – 4:30 pm  
Public Meeting

The public is invited to attend the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) California Relay Service Workgroup (CRS 2 Workgroup) meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and recommend certain aspects of the California Relay Service. The relay service puts TDD users in telephone contact with people without TDDs. Time has been set aside at 3:30 p.m. for public comment. The meeting will be at the **DDTP Office, 505 14th Street, Suite 500, Oakland**. For more information, contact Jane Elin at 510-302-1100x110 or TTY may call 510-302-1118.

July 8 – 10 am to 4 pm  
Public Meeting

The public is invited to attend, ask questions or comment at the Equipment Program Advisory Committee of the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP). The meeting will be at the **DDTP Office, 505 14th Street, Suite 500, Oakland**. For more information, contact Elka Weber at 510-302-1100x109 or TTY may call 510-302-1117.

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**A word about our website:** CPUC is required to post all its formal rulings, decisions, and resolutions on its website. You can access all of these by searching through the [Official Documents](#) page (link on the left). In addition, the CPUC posts its General Orders, Rules of Practice and Procedure and provides a link to the California Public Utilities Code through the [Official Documents](#) page (link on the left). If you want information about participating in formal proceedings, the [Public Advisor's](#) page can help you (link under "quick hits"). The [home page](#) lists information in the CPUC spotlight and it provides a link to special announcements on other important issues. A [Consumer Information Center](#) (link on the left) is loaded with information about utility programs the commission has authorized. The [News Room](#) (link on left) provides press releases and other information to the media. Our [industry divisions](#) have posted numerous industry-related decisions, presentations, reports and other information on their pages (see Regulated Areas selection on the left).

If you have problems finding the documents you need, call or e-mail us and we'll help you.